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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 00165 171409 Z

44
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

(ADP) W

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O 171330 Z APR 73
FM USDEL SALT TWO II
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1953

S E C R E T USDEL SALT TWO II 0165

EXDIS SALT

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SECDEF

E. O. 11652: XGDSI
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON MEETING APRIL 17

1. IN COURSE OF HIS STATEMENT THIS MORNING REVIEWING THEIR POSITION SEMENOV SEEMED TO LAY MOST STRESS UPON IMPORTANCE OF REACHING EARLY AGREEMENT ON PARTIAL MEASURES ALONG THE SAME LINES AS HIS PRESENTATION TO ME YESTERDAY. " IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED TO POSTPONE AGREEMENT ON THOSE QUESTIONS OF ARMS LIMITATION WHICH COULD BE SOLVED ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS WITHIN THE NEAREST FUTURE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAVE WORKED OUT AN AGREEMENT ON MORE COMPLETE MEASURES LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS."

2. IN FOR HIM AN UNUSUAL EXTEMPORANEOUS INTERVENTION AT THE END OF MY STATEMENT SUMMARIZING RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES, HE TOOK EXCEPTION TO MY SUMMARY OF SOVIET POSITION BUT REFUSED TO ANSWER MY QUESTION AS TO ANY WAY IN WHICH I HAD MISINTERPRETED OR MISREPRESENTED THEIR POSITION. (IN SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL CONVERSATION SHCHUKIN TOLD NITZE HE FELY MY STATEMENT HAD IN FACT ACCURATELY REPRESENTED SOVIET POSITION.)

3. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING HE TOLD ME THEY HAD NOW RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND WOULD BE RETURNING TO MOSCOW BY A SPECIAL FLIGHT TOMORROW. I REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF STRESSING TO MOSCOW

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THE ESSENTIALITY OF WHATEVER AGREEMENT IS FINALLY ENTERED INTO HAVING BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND APPEARANCE OF EQUALITY.

4. IN HIS INFORMAL CONVERSATION IN RESPONSE TO SHCHUKIN' S EXPRESSION OF LACK OF EXACT UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FORMULA ON THE THREE LEVELS CENTRAL SYSTEMS, NITZE SPELLED OUT OUR POSITION IN CAREFUL DETAIL, INCLUDING SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR USE OF TERM " CEILINGS" RATHER THAN " LIMITS," AND SHCHUKIN SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE REALLY UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCEPT. SHCHUKIN ALSO TOLD NITZE THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT TOP LEADERSHIP IN MOSCOW WOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON SALT ISSUES DURING RECESS. JOHNSON

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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